

## CLAIMS

1. Salicyl alcohol derivatives corresponding to general formula (I):



in which  $R^1$  is a hydrogen atom or a  $C(O)R^3$  group where  $R^3$  is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aralkyl or aryl group containing 1 to 26 carbon atoms and/or 1-10 hetero atoms which may be unbranched or branched, mono- or polyunsaturated and/or may bear substituents on the carbon chain and/or at the hetero atoms,

Ph is the 1,2-phenylene group,

Z is a sugar hemiacetally attached to the aromatic group Ph in (I) and optionally substituted n-times by  $R^2$  like an ester; the sugar may be a mono-, di-, oligo- or polysaccharide,

n is an integer between 0 and m, m being equal to the number of free hydroxyl groups present in the sugar Z hemiacetally attached to the aromatic group,

$R^2$  is a hydrogen atom or a group  $C(O)R^4$  where  $R^4$  is selected from the same group as  $R^3$ ;  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  may be the same or different with the proviso that at most one of the two substituents  $R^1$  or  $R^2$  is hydrogen when Z is glucose,

and on the conditions that

where Z is glucose and  $R^2$  is hydrogen,  $R^1$  cannot be acetyl or benzoyl or (1-hydroxy-6-oxo-2-cyclohexen-1-yl)carbonyl and, where  $R^1$  is hydrogen, Z is glucose and  $n = 1$  and the glucose unit is substituted by  $R^2$  at its primary hydroxy group,  $R^2$  cannot be 4-phenylbutyryl.

2. Salicyl alcohol derivatives as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the two substituents  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is a hydrogen atom, the benzoyl,

phenylacetyl, phenylpropionyl, phenylbutyryl, phenylvaleroyl, o-, m- or p-hydroxybenzoyl, o-, m- or p-hydroxyphenylacetyl, o-, m- or p-hydroxyphenylpropionyl, o-, m- or p-hydroxyphenylbutyryl, o-, m- or p-hydroxyphenylvaleroyl, 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoyl, 3-phenylacryloyl, o-, m- or p-hydroxy-3-phenylacryloyl or 3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-acryloyl group.

3. Salicyl alcohol derivatives as claimed in at least one of claims 1 and/or 2, characterized in that  $n = 1$  and  $R^1$  is hydrogen.

4. Salicyl alcohol derivatives as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that Z is a monosaccharide selected, for example, from  
10 threose, erythrose, arabinose, lyxose, ribose, xylose, allose, altrose, galactose, glucose, gulose, idose, mannose, talose and fructose, the naturally occurring stereoisomers of the sugars being preferred.

5. Salicyl alcohol derivatives as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that Z stands for D-glucose.

15 6. Salicyl alcohol derivatives as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, where  $R^1$  is hydrogen, Z is glucose and  $n = 1$  and the glucose is substituted by  $R^2 = C(O)R^4$  at its primary hydroxy group,  $R^4COOH$  is not a hydrophobic aromatic carboxylic acid.

7. A process for the production of the compounds claimed in at least one  
20 of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that an alcohol component is esterified or transesterified with a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester or an activated carboxylic acid derivative in the presence of suitable catalysts.

8. A process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that production is carried out by enzyme-catalyzed esterification or transesterification.

25 9. The use of the compounds claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6 for the production of cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparations.

10. Cosmetic preparations, characterized in that they contain the salicyl alcohol derivatives claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6.
11. Pharmaceutical preparations, characterized in that they contain the salicyl alcohol derivatives claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6.

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